

Message Text

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11

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 IO-12 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 PPT-02 SCA-01 VO-03 CPR-02 EB-11

COME-00 RSR-01 INRE-00 /143 W
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FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9867

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0401

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR NATO CPAS LY

SUBJECT: LIBYAN PASSPORT POLICY

REF: USNATO 1598

1. THE GREEK PROPOSAL TO REFUSE VIA (LIBYAN) PASSPORTS
PRINTED ONLY IN ARABIC IS, OF COURSE, AN OLD IDEA. WE
HAVE CONSISTENTLY OPPOSED IT. LET' S REVIEW THE PROS AND
CONS AGAIN.

2. LIKE UTIOPIA, IT WOULD BE WONDERFUL IF POSSIBLE TO
REALIZE, I. E. TO ADOPT WORLDWIDE OR EVEN AMONG NATO
COUNTRIES. FOR THEN THE LARG WOULD HAVE TO PAY A HIGHER
PRICE FOR REFUSING TO VISA FOREIGN PASSPORTS NOT IN
ARABIC, A NEW DMINENSION OF THE VISA WAR WOULD EMERGE,
AND IN THEORY THE LARG MIGHT ACCEPT DEFEAT AND DROP
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ITS REMAINING RESTRICTIONS.

3. UNFORTUNATELY, THE REALITY IS THAT THE MORE THE VISA WAR IS ESCALATED TO NEW DIMENSIONS THE MORE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY FALLS APART. FROM WHAT WE HEAR, THE MYTH IS GROWING WITHIN THE LARG THAT ITS DEMAND FOR FOREIGN PASSPORTS IN ARABIC IS ONLY A REACTION TO FOREIGN GOVTS' REFUSALS TO ACCEPT LIBYAN PASSPORTS IN ARABIC ONLY. THE FACT THAT THIS IS NOT TRUE DOES NOT HAMPER THE MYTH, BUT TO GIVE IT SUBSTANCE BY ACTUALLY STARTING TO REFUSE VISAS FOR PASSPORTS IN ARABIC ONLY WOULD BE FOLLY IN THE ABSENCE OF COMPLETE INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY ON THE ISSUE. THAT SOLIDARITY IS OBVIOUSLY UNATTAINABLE EVEN ON FAR LESSER MEASURES.
 4. IN OTHER WORDS, THE GREEK PROPOSAL IS LIKE THE RUSSIAN THREAT TO REQUIRE RUSSIAN IN LIBYAN PASSPORTS-- NAMELY EMPTY, INTERNATIONALLY UNENFORCEABLE, AND THEREFORE INCREDIBLE TO THE LARG.
 5. INSTEAD OF HATCHING IDEAS LIKE THIS, NATO WOULD BE BETTER ADVISED TO TRY TO ACHIEVE SOLIDARITY WHERE IT IS RELATIVELY MORE ATTAINABLE. IT HAS ATTAINED UNANIMITY ON REFUSING TO ISSUE PASSPORTS IN ARABIC OR TO AUTHENTICATE PRIVATE TRANSLATIONS. THESE ARE ONLY NEGATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS, HOWEVER. THE NEXT STEPS REQUIRED ARE POSITIVE, PALPABLE COUNTERMEASURES BY ALL REPEAT ALL ALLIES. BEFORE WE CAN WALK THAT ROUTE TOGETHER, LET' S NOT OPEN A NEW ONE DOWN WHICH WE STRAGGLE.
 6. AS TO THE BELGIAN' S PROPOSAL, IT IS ANOTHER BUREACUCRATIC BY- PATH, HARMLESS ENOUGH IN ITSELF BUT DETRAILING FROM THE MAIN ISSUE WHICH IS ACTION. WHAT ARE THE BELGIANS DOING BY WAY OF COUNTERMEASURES? THAT IS THE QUESTION, NOT STRIKING A BELLA FIGURA IN NATO COUNCILS.
- JOSIF

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